## PERSIAN Chart for Classical Civilizations

### Era: 600 B.C.E. – 600 C.E.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLITICAL</th>
<th>Greece</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Leaders/groups</td>
<td>• Influenced by the peoples of the island Crete and the city-state Mycenae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Forms of government</td>
<td>• No centralized government; concept of <strong>polis</strong> (city-state), or a fortified site that formed the centers of many city states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Empires</td>
<td>• Governing styles varied (Sparta a military state, Athens eventually a democracy for adult males)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• State building/expansion</td>
<td>• Creation of strong city-states with own government, typically a tyranny or aristocracy led by a aristocratic council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Political structures</td>
<td>• Sparta and Athens two leading city-states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Courts/laws</td>
<td>• Both Athens and Sparta developed strong military organizations and established colonies around the Mediterranean.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Nationalism/nations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Revots/revolutions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Athens**

- Athens government first dominated by tyrants, or strong rulers who gained power from military prowess; later came to be ruled by an assembly of free men who made political decisions.
- Democracy under Pericles in Athens, major decisions were made by general assemblies in which only citizens would participate.
- Only a minority of people were citizens in Athens.

**Sparta**

- Militaristic state over a large slave population (helots)
- Aristocracy
- Sparta theoretically equal; wealth accumulation not allowed

**Hellenistic Empire**

- After the Peloponnesian Wars, Alexander the Great from Macedonia conquered Greece and created an empire that stretched from Greece to India contributing to the spread of Greek culture.

### Economic

- Agricultural, pastoral
- Economic systems
- Labor systems/organizations
- Industrialization
- Technology/industry
- Capital/money
- Business organizations

- Trade
- Great seafaring skills, centered around the Aegean Sea, but traveled around the entire Mediterranean
- Most were farmers but soil was unfertile, so the production of olive oil and wine increased.
- Most commercial activity required seafaring abilities to trade with Palestine, Egypt, and Carthage exchanging wine and olive products for grains.
- During the Hellenistic era, caravan trade flourished from Persia to the West, and sea lanes were widely traveled through the Med, Persian Gulf, and Arabian Sea, causing a cosmopolitan culture.

### Religious

- Belief systems/teachings
- Philosophy
- Holy books
- Conversion
- Key figures
- Deities

- Polytheism, with gods having very human characteristics and emotions
- Gods and goddesses regulated and interfered with human life.
- Celebration of human individual achievement and the ideal human form
- Philosophy and science emphasized the use of logic and reason in thinking; Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle were the main philosophers
## PERSIAN Chart for Classical Civilizations

### SOCIAL
- Family/kinship
- Gender roles/relations
- Social and economic classes
- Racial/ethnic factors
- Entertainment
- Lifestyles
- “Haves” & “have nots”

| Overall, a patriarchal society with fairly strict social divisions. |
| Slavery widely practiced in Classical Greece; allowed citizens time for art, architecture, drama, debate, etc… |

### Sparta
- Men separated from women in military barracks until age 30; women had relative freedom.
- Women in Sparta were encouraged to be physically fit so as to have healthy babies; generally better treated and more equal to men than women in Athens.

### Athens
- Athens encouraged equality for free males, but women and slaves had little freedom. Neither group was allowed to participate in polis (city-state) affairs.
- Valued education, placed emphasis on importance of human effort, human ability to shape future events
- Social status dependent on land holdings and cultural sophistication

### INTERACTIONS
- War/conflict
- Diplomacy/treaties
- Alliances
- Exchanges between individuals, groups, & empires/nations
- Trade/commerce
- Globalization

| Due to land being so tight, Greece was always looking to establish colonies abroad to ease overcrowding and gain new raw materials. |
| Persian Wars led to the uniting of the Greek city states against the Persian Empire (largest empire east of the Mediterranean at the time); Greeks win the war |
| Delian League was established under the leadership of Pericles after the Persian wars as an alliance against aggression from its common enemies; members paid a tribute that was oversaw by Athens. |
| Peloponnesian War (Sparta vs. Athens, Sparta wins the Golden Age of Greece comes to an end |
| Alexander the Great and the spread of Hellenism (Greek, Persian, Egyptian, and Indian cultural blend/diffusion); death resulted in the split of the Hellenistic Empire into three parts: Antigonid (Greece and Macedon), Ptolemaic (Egypt), and the Seleucid (Bactria and Anatolia). |

### ARTS
- Art / Music
- Writing/Literature
- Philosophy
- Math/Science
- Education
- Architecture
- Technology/Innovations
- Transportation

| Golden Age of Greece led by Pericles following the Persian Wars |
| Written language deriving from the Phoenician alphabet (encountered when Greeks visited Phoenician city-states around the Mediterranean) |
| Olympic games |
| Highly developed form of art, including sculptures, architecture (Parthenon and columns), literature (Homer’s *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*) and drama, math (Euclid and Pythagoras), and medicine (Hippocrates and the Hippocratic Oath) |
| Important advances in shipbuilding and navigation |
| Engineering accomplishments of Archimedes (lever & pulley) |

### ENVIRONMENTAL
- Location
- Physical
- Human/environment
- Migration/movement
- Region
- Demography
- Neighborhood
- Settlement patterns
- Disease
- Urbanization/cities (2 major)

| Cities relatively small and independent due to the geographic isolation caused by the mountains and seas |
| Mild climate for growing seasons and promoting outdoor events |
| Athens, Sparta, Alexandria (under Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic empire) are key cities. |